

## Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 L-03 /058 W  
----- 073173

P R 101557Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7083

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, US

SUBJECT: US/FRG PLANNING TALKS: WHAT THE PLANNING  
STAFF IS AND IS NOT

REF: STATE 56380 (NOTAL)

1. THE FRG PLANNING STAFF HAS ON PAPER A ROLE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE QUITE ANALOGOUS TO THE ROLE OF S/P IN THE DEPARTMENT. IT IS CHARGED WITH PREPARATION OF POLICY PAPERS WHICH ANALYZE LONG TERM POLICY (E.G., EUROPEAN UNIFICATION VERSUS GERMAN REUNIFICATION) OR TAKE A MORE OBJECTIVE LOOK AT OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS WHICH, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, CANNOT BE DEALT WITH OBJECTIVELY BY GEOGRAPHICAL BUREAUS (E.G., SHOULD FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER VISIT LATIN AMERICA?).

2. ADDITIONALLY, MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING STAFF PARTICIPATE IN POLICY-MAKING MEETINGS, USUALLY CONDUCTED AT THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL, WHICH INVOLVE MORE THAN ONE OFFICE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE OR WHICH NEED COORDINATION WITH OTHER MINISTRIES (E.G., SHOULD THE PRIME GOAL OF FRG POLICY ON ANGOLA BE SUPPORT OF US POLICY, A UNIFIED STAND BY THE EC, OR IDENTIFICATION WITH BLACK AFRICA?).

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3. FINALLY, THE PLANNING STAFF SOMETIMES DRAFTS BUT MORE OFTEN CLEARS SPEECHES BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE CHANCELLOR, OR OTHER MAJOR FRG FOREIGN POLICY FIGURES. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ROLE OF THE PLANNING STAFF IN THIS REGARD IS NOT AS INCISIVE OR DECISIVE AS THAT OF S/P.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER INTENDED THE PLANNING STAFF TO HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS WHEN HE NAMED BLECH TO HEAD IT. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THIS INTENTION HAS BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY CARRIED OUT. ONE REASON IS GENSCHER'S TENDENCY TO TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY ON FAIRLY SHORT NOTICE AND TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO SPEAK (AND MAKE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS) WITHOUT A COHERENT PLAN. GENSCHER'S ROLE AS LEADER OF HIS POLITICAL PARTY SOMETIMES GETS IN THE WAY OF HIS POSITION AS FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN HE MAKES SPEECHES. ANOTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IS THE CHANCELLERY'S CONTINUING IMPORTANT ROLE IN FRG FOREIGN POLICY.

5. THE QUALITY OF THE PLANNING STAFF HAS DEFINITELY BEEN UP-GRADED UNDER BLECH. HE HAS SOME OF THE BETTER THINKERS OF THE FRG FOREIGN SERVICE ON HIS STAFF. HE HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL COMPLETELY THE ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS TO HIS STAFF AND HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN FORCED TO TAKE SOME PEOPLE WHOM HE DOES NOT RESPECT TOO HIGHLY. WE HAVE FOUND THE PLANNING STAFF TO BE QUITE STRONG IN THE AREA OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, WHICH REFLECTS BLECH'S PARTICULAR EXPERTISE. ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH THE STAFF IS STRONG IS THE GERMANY QUESTION AND BERLIN, AGAIN AREAS WITH WHICH BLECH IS FAMILIAR. GENSCHER HAS PUT A CAPABLE MAN ON THE STAFF (WITTE) TO HANDLE EC MATTERS, BUT HE LOOKS AT HIS JOB AS MUCH FROM AN FDP PARTY AS FROM A GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY POINT OF VIEW. ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE OFFICER IS GUENTHER JOETZE, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF BLECH, WHOSE PARTICULAR AREA OF EXPERTISE IS EAST-WEST RELATIONS (ESPECIALLY CSCE); HE ALSO HAS SOME FAMILIARITY WITH NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS FROM HIS DAYS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR TO NIAMEY. BLECH HAS TOLD US THAT THE STAFF HAS NO ECONOMIC EXPERTISE. HE HAS HAD TO DRAW ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL BUREAUS TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR THE UPCOMING TALKS WITH EXPERTISE IN THIS AND OTHER AREAS.

6. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE INFLUENCE OF THE PLANNING STAFF IS A FUNCTION OF ITS LEADER,

KLAUS BLECH -- ONE OF THE FASTEST RISING STARS OF THE  
FRG'S FOREIGN SERVICE. NAMED BY GENSCHER TO HIS JOB A

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 L-03 /058 W

----- 073149

P R 101557Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7084

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03993

LITTLE OVER ONE YEAR AGO, BLECH (47) HAS, SINCE HIS  
RETURN TO BONN FROM TOKYO IN 1971, BEEN AMBASSADOR TO  
CSCE, HEAD OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION'S EAST-WEST  
RELATIONS SECTION, AND CHIEF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR  
BERLIN/INNER GERMAN PROBLEMS. HE IS RUMORED TO BE A  
POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL WHEN  
AND IF THE LATTER MOVES ON -- POSSIBLY TO A MAJOR  
EMBASSY LATER THIS YEAR. BLECH'S QUICK PROMOTION RATE  
IS PARTIALLY A RESULT OF HIS QUIET SELF-CONFIDENCE,  
HIS ABILITY TO REPRESENT GERMAN INTERESTS FORCEFULLY  
AND EFFECTIVELY AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, HIS  
OPERATIONAL ABILITIES. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE,  
ENERGETIC AND PERSONABLE MAN, WHO CAN RELAX COMPLETELY  
AWAY FROM THE OFFICE. HE IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE  
US, WHERE HE STUDIED FOR A YEAR IN THE EARLY '50'S.  
AT THE SAME TIME, HE -- LIKE MANY OF THE FRG'S YOUNGER  
DIPLOMATS -- IS SENSITIVE TO ATTITUDES ON THE PART  
OF THE US WHICH SMACK OF SUPERIORITY TOWARD THE FRG.  
HE WILL BE A GOOD HOST BUT WILL INSIST ON BEING TREATED  
AS AN EQUAL IN EVERY RESPECT.

7. THUS THE PLANNING STAFF HAS A GREATER ROLE AND  
BETTER OFFICERS THANBEFORE, THOUGH IT HAS NOT COME AS  
FAR AS BLECH HAD HOPED. IF BLECH REMAINS FOR ANOTHER  
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YEAR OR TWO, AND IF THE MINISTER CONTINUES HIS  
POSITIVE (IF SPORADIC) ATTENTION TOWARD THE PLANNING  
STAFF, WE WOULD EXPECT FURTHER PROGRESS.  
HILLENBRAND

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